a salt factory, were being inundated. On the Member's representation a scheme was sanctioned under which work had been finished to a distance of 3 miles and 6 miles remained to be completed. People had already surrendered the required land worth about Rs. 30,000. If the canal were completed, an additional area of 10,000 acres could be brought under cultivation. The work to be carried out might cost about Rs. 10,000.

Dewan's reply.—Some of the requests of the Member appear to be reasonable. Urgent action will be taken on them. The representations on the other points will also be carefully considered.

52. Need for the opening of a Veterinary Hospital at Punalur.

Mr. P. Narayana Pillai (Member, Pathanapuram taluk) submitted that cattle markets were being held at Avaneeswaram, Kunnathur, Piracode and Sasthancotta and many heads of cattle were being imported to Punalur every year from the Tinnevelly District and from there sent to the above markets. Diseases were also being imported through those animals. Last year a peculiar disease prevailed on account of which several animals died within 10 or 12 hours and it was found to be contagious. 200 heads of cattle died. The Quilon Veterinary Inspector could not attend to such cases, on account of the distance. A Veterinary Dispensary at Punalur was a great want, and the Member requested Government to establish one.

Dewan's reply.—The representation will be referred to the Director of Agriculture for an expression of his views.

53. Agricultural difficulties of the Shencottah taluk and suggestions for remedying the same.

Mr. A. Ponnambalam Pillai (Member, Shencottah taluk) urged that the first and foremost requirement was improvement of the irrigational facilities. The five eastern villages *viz.*, Cusbah, Elathur, Ayikudy, Kilangad and Samburvadagarai, were being irrigated by the rivers and that only for the Kumbhom crop. Kanny crop got hardly enough water. It was that crop that stood in need of water the supply of which could be facilitated by improving the tanks which alone would enable them to raise the Kanny crop. The case of the other *pakuthies* was much worse; during the rains the lands were being washed away by flood. The lands dried up the next day. The channel-fed lands suffered more, as they depended on the streams which supplied water only during the monsoon. The best way of ensuring a copious supply of water was to enlarge and otherwise improve the tanks. An investigation should be ordered of the irrigation works in the whole taluk, especially of those of Puliyira, Karkudy, Puthur, Sivanallur and Mekkarai *pakuthies*. The sanctioned estimates for irrigational improvements required revision in the light of the present standard. The Sri Mulaperi tank, the estimates for which were sanctioned years ago, might be ordered to be constructed at once. Among other agricultural needs were the bridges to cross the Ayikudy and Samburvadagarai rivers which had been sanctioned. The following points were also urged :—

(1) Provision of facilities for green manure and fodder. It was impossible to obtain free passes for the former. An order granting remission of half-tax on lands on which green manure or fodder crops were grown would be a source of great encouragement. A similar concession was being granted by the Madras Government. The slopes of Forest Reserves should be reserved for fodder and fuel.

(2) The Member then complained that the term *Manipidi* was not defined. To declare an acre of land yielding a few measures as *Manipidi* was unreasonable and unjust. That was not intended by the Royal Proclamation, though the practice was otherwise. Lands whose crops were destroyed by wild animals were also entitled to some concession.

(3) The Agricultural Journal should be issued in Tamil also for the benefit of the Tamil taluks. The Agricultural Sub-Inspector should be ordered to visit the villages thrice a week to demonstrate the use of improved implements and scientific manure.

(4) The Member suggested the division of the State into a number of circles with an Inspector in charge of each and also the appointment of a Deputy Director of Agriculture.

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(5) Finally, the Member represented the difficulties experienced in getting agricultural implements and also complained of destruction of crops and cattle by wild animals, and requested that remedial measures might be taken.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

III.—PROTECTION. (1) LEGISLATION (*continued.*)

THE NAIR PARTITION.

After lunch time the Dewan invited the opinions of the Nair Members of the Assembly on the question of the partition of Nair Tarwads. Of the 29 Nair Members, 16 were for *Thavazhi* partition, 9 for individual partition and 3 were against partition altogether. One Nair Member was absent throughout the whole Session.

IV.—PRODUCTION

(1) AGRICULTURE (*continued.*)

54. Certain suggestions for the improvement of agriculture in the Sitencottah Taluk

Mr. N. Subbiah Thevar (Member, T. I. C., Shencottah) complained of the ryots being put to immense difficulties on account of the insufficient supply of water for irrigation purposes. The existing tanks of the taluk were not capacious enough to hold the necessary quantity of water. The Tank Restoration Party had not been working satisfactorily and the irrigation works done in the taluk did not fully satisfy the requirements of the ryots. There were large areas of dry lands which could be converted into wet lands, if sufficient water was available. He, therefore, suggested that dams might be constructed in the Muriappanchan river and the Palaruviaur and the water diverted into the reservoirs constructed for the purpose, so that the water in the two rivers could be made available for irrigation purposes.

He then stated that the areas now set apart for the grazing of cattle were unsuitable for the purpose and suggested that large areas of reserved forests situated near the town be thrown open as pasture land and for the supply of the necessary agricultural implements. The Member next referred to the delay and difficulty experienced by the people of the taluk in getting free passes from the Forest Department for the removal of firewood and green manure leaves. The necessity for the Proverthicar's certificates and the sketches of the lands from which firewood, &c. had to be removed, now insisted on, should be done away with, as no serious harm would be done to the forests thereby.

He also submitted that, for the possession and sale of pepper, ginger, cocoanut oil, and other articles subject to export duty in the Shencottah taluk, the traders were being compelled to take out licenses from the Excise Department and to keep special accounts for the purpose. The system worked great hardship on the people and should, therefore, be done away with as early as possible.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

55. Desirability of issuing agricultural loans to the Cardamom ryots on a nominal interest.

Mr. S. P. Sultan Ahamad Baduradin Rowther (Member, Devicolam taluk) spoke of the great difficulties experienced by the cardamom ryots on account of the recent war, scarcity of rain, increase in the price of food-stuffs, increase in the labourers' wages and the enhancement of the acreage value of cardamom lands from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 per acre. He suggested the following proposals for the consideration of Government:—

(1) Agricultural loans should be advanced to cardamom ryots on the security of their cardamom lands on interest at the rate of 4 or 5 per cent. and the same recovered in small annual instalments.

(2) All the cardamoms produced in the State should be purchased through Government agency and sold after due advertisement at Alleppey or other commercial centres for proper prices, thereby preventing foreigners from purchasing cardamoms at very low prices and selling them outside Travancore at exorbitant prices.

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